

Budget Meeting of the
Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners
April 8, 2014
Bouchard Building, Goffstown, NH
Minutes of the Public Session
(Not Official until Approved by the Board and signed by the Clerk.)

Present: Comm. Pappas, Comm. Holden, Comm. Ziehm, P. Coughlin, J. Hardy, P. LaFrance, C. Connelly, M. Rioux, E. Robinson, G. Wenger, M. Castonguay, and L. Stonner

Call to Order

Comm. Pappas called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Mr. Wenger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion: To reconvene the meeting. Motion by Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Ziehm. Motion carried.

Mr. Wenger provided an overview of the budget as submitted by the Departments and highlighted the challenges. It was noted that increases in the Salaries & Wages make up a large portion of the increases in the proposed budgets. There was discussion relative to the challenges facing the County in the coming fiscal year, the increases that have been passed down from the State, and the fact that the budget has been cut significantly the last three years and the use of Surplus has increased.

County Attorney LaFrance proposed a new Drug Task Force for Hillsborough County and 8 new positions, noting that if approved, she will be applying for related grants for funding. Sheriff Hardy noted that he would like to address his concerns relative to the Task Force. The Board favored a separate discussion relative to the Drug Task Force as well as discussing it with Rockingham County and Merrimack County, both of whom have Drug Task Force.

Attorney LaFrance requested the creation of two positions, one an Assistant County Attorney and the other a Victim Witness Advocate; both will be funded at \$1 and the positions would only be filled if the funds were available in the budget.

Ms. Robinson reviewed the Temple Street budget and presented information relative to Security options at Temple Street. Discussion ensued relative to security options at Temple Street; it was decided to add a Maintenance Worker//Security person so that there would be a presence in the building and to also address some of the maintenance work at other County properties.

Motion: To reduce County Complex-Security, line 4198-7292, by \$3,288 and to fund the line at \$34,612. Motion by Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Ziehm. Motion carried.

Motion: To add the description: "*Boiler Replacement Chimney-\$15,825*" to County Complex-Building Repairs, line 4198-7810, and to fund the line at \$35,000.

Motion: To reduce County Complex-New Equipment, line 4198-7970 by \$6,415 and to fund that line at \$30,000. Motion by Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Ziehm. Motion carried.

The Board took a brief break.

The Register of Deeds reviewed her budget lines, noting that the majority of the increases in her Department relate to Salaries, Wages and related lines. There was a discussion related to any potential cuts in the

Salaries/Wages line and how that would impact the Register. Register Coughlin stressed that any cuts in staff would negatively affect the service provided and morale among staff.

Mr. Wenger informed the Board that the lease for the Manchester Courthouse will be coming up for renewal.

Motion: To reduce Register of Deeds-Office Supplies, line 4193-7360 by \$1,000, and to fund the line at \$12,000. Motion by Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Ziehm. Motion carried.

The Board offered the following motions:

Motion: To accept the FY 2013 Audit. Motion by Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Ziehm. Motion carried.

Mr. Wenger asked for Board consideration of the Draft CEDS application with respect to a study of the Women's Prison and surrounding lands in anticipation of their departure.

Motion: To approve submission of the Draft CEDS application as presented by Mr. Wenger. Motion by Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Ziehm. Motion carried.

The Board discussed whether the City of Nashua might have interest in utilization of the County's property at 19 Temple Street in Nashua.

Sheriff Hardy joined the meeting and Attorney LaFrance returned. The Board held further discussion with Sheriff Hardy and Attorney LaFrance relative to the Drug Task Force proposed by Attorney LaFrance. Sheriff Hardy offered that the need for A Drug Task Force has been discussed before and there is no disputing that there is a heroin epidemic. The Sheriff added that more consideration should be given to feasibility, sustainability, and involving the Sheriff's Office in a Drug Task Force; he provided information relative to the State's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program (HIDTA). Sheriff Hardy did not favor going forward with the project at this time and offered his opinion that such a Drug Task Force should fall under the direction of the Sheriff's Office.

Attorney LaFrance noted that she disagrees and explained that she has met with Police Chiefs from several communities that favor the project, adding that the HIDTA program reaches the major dealers, but the program she is proposing would target the street dealers at local levels and reduce the recidivism that she is seeing on a regular basis. She added that it is her belief that the concerns can be addressed and noted that she cannot move forward with the program and look for grant funding until the program has been approved by the County.

Mr. Wenger added that with any new or expanding programs that are not paid for by the State would add additional burdens on the County. The Board considered whether the proposed program would fall under the "essential operations of the County" that the Board is responsible. The Board took no action relative to creating a Drug Task Force.

The meeting recessed.

Motion: To recess the meeting. Motion by Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Ziehm. Motion carried.

Signed June 11, 2014

Comm. Sandra Ziehm, Clerk
Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners

Date